

SENATE BILL 2020

By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 10, Part 4, relative to the open container
law.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-10-416, is amended by deleting
the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

Section 55-10-416.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Alcoholic beverage" means liquor, wine, or beer;

(2) "Driving" means operating or being in physical control of a
vehicle;

(3) "Imprisonment" means confinement in a jail, minimum-security
facility, community corrections facility, house arrest with electronic
monitoring, inpatient rehabilitation or treatment center, or other facility,
provided, the individual under confinement is in fact being detained;

(4) "Open alcoholic beverage container" means any bottle, can, or
other receptacle that contains any amount of alcoholic beverage, and that
is open, has a broken seal, or the contents of which are partially removed;
and

(5) "Passenger area" means the area designed to seat the driver
and passengers while the motor vehicle is in operation and any area that
is readily accessible to the driver or passengers while in their seating
positions, including, but not limited to, the glove compartment.

(b) It is an offense for a person to consume an alcoholic beverage while driving a vehicle on a public highway.

(c)

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, it is an offense for a person to possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage within the passenger area of a motor vehicle while the motor vehicle is on a public highway.

(2) This subsection does not apply to a motor vehicle being used primarily for the transportation of persons for compensation or to the living quarters of a house coach, house trailer, or recreational vehicle, nor does it apply to a vehicle operated by a chauffeur in such chauffeur's for-hire capacity.

(d)

(1) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class B misdemeanor.

(2) A violation of subsection (c) is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.